

Gen. J.E. Robertson House  
Independence, Texas  
Washington Co

HABS No. 33-B-9

HABS  
TEX.

239-INDEP

- 2 -

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 33

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Marvin Eickenroht, District Officer  
San Antonio, Texas.

THE ROBERTSON HOUSE  
INDEPENDENCE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS

o o o

The house is now owned and occupied by a negro family named Williams, who acquired it in 1901.

Previous owners were all descendants of the original owner and builder, General Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, who built the house in 1849. No dates of occupancies or other details are available.

The original house apparently consisted of Bed Room #2, Hall and Living Room. The addition at the rear was made at such an early date that no record is available. The Hall was originally open, straight through, as was usual in this early type of Texas house. Bed Room #1, the Porch and the Store Room were added prior to 1901. About 1902, the walls between the Hall and the Porch, between the Hall and the Dining Room, and the exterior wall of the Dining Room were added by the present owners.

General J. B. Robertson was a man of some note in the early history of Independence. He organized the first company of soldiers in that section during the Civil War, and was later promoted to the rank of Brig. General in Hood's 5th Texas Brigade. He was a member of Milam #11 A.F.A.M. Lodge. He was also a practicing physician, and was friendly with such men as Sam Houston, who lived at Independence temporarily. The present house is built on the site of an original two-story house which was blown down in a wind storm. It is said that General Robertson remarked that he would build the next house so low that the wind could not destroy it again. This accounts for the rakish lines of the present house.

The above data was obtained from Mrs. Helen C. Blue, 91 years old, who lived in the Robertson house as a girl, while attending school at Baylor College. She still lives at Independence.

Author Jos. J. Campbell

Approved Marvin Eickensht

1 STORY, FRAME, PITCH ROOF, OUTSIDE CORNERS.

Revised 1936, H.C.F.